

**REMARKS**

Claims 5-8 are pending in the present application. The specification was objected to for the title being not descriptive. Claims 5, 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being upatentable over Lo et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,247,082, in view of Barrett et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,584,033. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being upatentable over Lo et al. in view of Barrett et al. in further view of Siu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,528,215. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claim 8 has been allowed.

The specification has been amended. Claims 5 and 8 have been amended. New claims 9-12 have been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

**Supplemental information disclosure statement**

An information disclosure statement including FORM PTO-1449 and cited reference is submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

**Objection to the specification**

The specification was objected to for the title being not descriptive. The title has now been amended to be more clearly indicative of the claimed invention.

Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 5, 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being upatentable over Lo et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,247,082, in view of Barrett et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,584,033. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being upatentable over Lo et al. in view of Barrett et al. in further view of Siu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,528,215.

Lo describes computer subsystems 100a and 100b using interface circuits 110a and 110b and a message bus 150. See col. 4, lines 50-54, and Fig. 2. Interface circuit 110a receives an acknowledge signal (AQ) over line 126 from clock domain 2 of computer

subsystem 100b. See col. 5, lines 64-67.

Barrett describes an apparatus for burst data transfer using a pause at fixed data intervals. See abstract.

Siu describes a building automation system using complementary modules, one of which is an expansion module. See abstract.

Independent claim 5 of the present application recites “the master and slave interfaces are capable of being connected via at least one data transmission line” and “the master and the slave interfaces are capable of being connected via a acknowledgment signal line configured for a transmission of an acknowledgment signal from the slave device to the master device.”

It is respectfully submitted that none of Lo, Barrett or Siu teaches or suggests these features of claim 5. In contrast, in Lo, the line 126 merely connects computer subsystem 100b to interface circuit 110b, not interface circuit 110a to interface circuit 110b. See Lo, Fig. 2. Interface circuits 110a and 110b are not connected via an acknowledgment signal line, as recited in claim 5. Moreover, the message bus 150 of Lo directly connects computer subsystems 100a and 100b, and is not connected to interface circuits 110a and 110b. See Lo, Fig. 2. Interface circuits 110a and 110b thus are not connected via the data transmission line, as recited in claim 5. Therefore, Lo does not teach or suggest master and slave interfaces connectable via a data transmission line, where these interfaces are also connectable via an acknowledgment signal line, as recited in claim 5. Nor do either of Barrett or Siu teach or suggest the above-recited features of claim 5. Because each of Lo, Barrett and Siu is missing at least the above-recited features of independent claim 5, any combination of these references, to the extent proper, could not render claim 5 or any of its dependent claims obvious.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Lo et al. in view of Barrett et al., and of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Lo et al. in view of

Barrett et al. further in view of Siu et al., is respectfully requested.

New claims 9-12

New dependent claims 9-12 have been added reciting features described at paragraph 0017, table rows 4-7, of the present specification. It is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the single receive and transmit bits with the features as recited in new claims 9-12, and that new claims 9-12 are therefore patentable over the cited prior art for these additional reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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